

Sociological program

The work of the Sociological Program in 2015 was focused on integration of migrants, social inclusion of vulnerable groups, trafficking in human beings, prevention of radicalisation leading to terrorism, rendering advice and expertise to key governmental stakeholders.

- **Integration of migrants and social inclusion of vulnerable groups.**

Impact assessments of the integration policies, practices and measures on vulnerable categories of migrants (women, children and victims of trafficking) were carried out in ten EU Member States. A detailed comparison of the national results was conducted identifying trends, good practices and gaps in the integration of vulnerable migrant groups and formulating relevant recommendations.

Growing negative attitudes and “othering” of Roma in Bulgaria were challenged by show-casing the possibilities, positive effects and benefits of social inclusion achieved at local level through transparent public funding. A study providing new data and insight on the social and economic effects of a wide range of public investments in Roma communities was conducted.

A study was launched on domestic and gender-based violence and development of victim support model, with specific focus on Roma women and girls.

- **Counter trafficking in human beings.**

Three new forms of child trafficking for the purpose of begging, pick-pocketing and sexual exploitation of boys have been studied. The focus was on the Roma communities and for this purpose methods for participatory research were applied in seven EU Member States. A community-based approach to combatting trafficking in human beings was elaborated. The use of Internet (including social networks) in the area of trafficking in human beings and smuggling of illegal migrants and persons seeking international protection was also studied.

- **Prevention of radicalisation leading to terrorism.**

A central research topic was the radicalisation leading to terrorism in Bulgaria, Greece and the Czech Republic. A methodology for background review of radicalisation trends and monitoring mechanisms at national level was developed. Three national reports were drafted on radicalisation trends (with regard to right and left wing radicalisation, Islamist radicalisation and football hooliganism).

- **Rendering advice and expertise to key governmental stakeholders.**

The Sociological Programme led the drafting of the *Annual Report on Migration and Asylum Policy* for the European Migration Network providing comprehensive account of annual policy and legal developments in Bulgaria for 2014.

A pilot mechanism for monitoring of forced return operations of rejected asylum seekers and irregular migrants was developed. A Handbook for independent monitors was elaborated including a review of the existing European and national legal framework, the role and responsibilities of independent observers and a practical guide to monitoring.

I. Integration of migrants and social inclusion of vulnerable groups

Assessing Integration Measures for Vulnerable Migrant Groups

In 2015, the Sociological program coordinated activities in ten EU MS – Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece, Malta, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, and Spain. This initiative addresses key needs in the area of migrant integration across the EU:

- standardised methods for the monitoring of integration of vulnerable migrants, applicable across the EU;
- knowledge of the effectiveness of integration policy and programmes for vulnerable migrant groups (women, children and victims of trafficking (VOTs) in “old” and “new” Member States with large or ‘evolving’ immigration flows;
- recommendations for enhancement of the integration of vulnerable migrant groups (women, children and VOTs) across the EU, including identification of good practices;
- awareness among national stakeholders across the EU of the need to develop vulnerability-sensitive integration processes that address the particular circumstances of vulnerable migrants related to exclusion, exploitation and trafficking.

An assessment was conducted in the ten EU Member States of the **levels of integration of vulnerable migrant groups** such as migrant women, migrant children and victims of trafficking. Based on the ten national assessments, a detailed comparison of the national results was conducted identifying trends, achievements, and gaps in the integration of vulnerable migrant groups and formulating relevant recommendations. In addition, good practices in the field of integration of vulnerable migrants and monitoring of migrant integration were collected in ten EU member states and systematised in a *Compendium of Good Practices*. Finally, a review of European Union measures for the integration of vulnerable migrant groups was conducted to provide stakeholders at the national level, policy makers, researchers, and NGOs with an outline of the key European Union (EU) instruments and provisions regarding the integration of women, children, and trafficked persons.

A workshop held in February 2015 discussed the comparative assessment of the integration of vulnerable migrants, as well as the selected good practices in their monitoring and integration.

In April 2015 the Sociological Program hosted a national expert meeting “**Assessing the integration of vulnerable**



Expert meeting on assessing the integration of vulnerable migrants. From left to right: Ms Magdalena Queipo de Llano López-Cózar and Ms Jennifer Zuppiroli, from ACCEM, Spain, Ms Dia Anagnostou from ELIAMEP, Greece, and Mr Andrew Vasalo from People for Change Foundation, Malta

migrant groups in Bulgaria” aimed at generating a discussion on the levels of integration in Bulgaria of migrant women and migrant children in a comparative perspective. At the meeting the results of a study on the integration of vulnerable migrant groups in the country were presented alongside the experience of other EU Member States.

At the end of May 2015, the Sociological Program together with People for Change Foundation conducted a policy conference in Brussels aiming to present main **EU relevant findings and recommendations relating to the monitoring and integration of vulnerable migrant groups** to EU stakeholders. The conference was joined by Mr. Christian Pirvulescu, Member of the Permanent Study Group on Immigration and Integration, European Economic and Social Committee and by Ms. Valeria Setti, Policy Offic-

er at the Legal Migration and Integration Unit, DG Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission as well as other EU relevant stakeholders. The main topics raised in the discussion, moderated by Professor Heaven Crowley, Chair in International Migration Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations at Coventry University, regarded the role of politicians in convincing EU societies of the values of integration; the need to develop indicators for measuring third country nationals (TCN) integration that target not only TCN but also the host societies and their willingness and openness for welcoming and accommodating migrants; the need to assure sustainability of integration services by allocating a minimum of integration services as responsibility of the governments.

National reports on the integration of vulnerable migrant women, children,



Expert meeting on assessment of integration measures for vulnerable migrant groups in Bulgaria

and victims of trafficking were prepared for each of the ten countries participating in the initiative. The **report for Bulgaria** aims to trace the existing integration policies and how they meet the needs of the three vulnerable groups in a set of policy domains that are considered of key importance for integration. In addition, it provides assessment of the integration outcomes for each of the three vulnerable migrant groups by analysis of available statistical and administrative data along a set of indicators in the specified integration domains. The report offers a discussion as to whether and to what extent national integration policies pay attention to vulnerability in migration, and to what extent are there integration mechanisms and programmes that address the integration needs of immigrants who are more vulnerable than others. The report identifies some general factors and features that shape Bulgaria's integration policy towards vulnerable migrants. The main shaping factors include: the moderate share of immigrants (less

than 1%); the country's policy priority for Schengen entry which determines the strong border security aspect of Bulgaria's migration strategy; the increasing refugee inflows which put refugees in the centre of public and institutional attention with policies for integration of refugees overshadowing policies for integration of legally residing TCNs. The two main features regarding the policy approach towards the integration of migrants in Bulgaria include: the regularization of migrant integration through legal acts, strategies and action plans in sectoral policies in employment, education, social inclusion and anti-discrimination; the main determinant in the policy formulation in the area of integration of TCN in Bulgaria is status and not gender or vulnerability.

On the basis of the ten national reports, a *Comparative report* has been prepared which provided a review of the integration policies and outcomes of the integration of vulnerable migrant women, children, and victims of trafficking in

Recommendations for the integration of TCN:

- A better coherence between migration and sectoral policy frameworks should be provided in order to improve policy for integration of TCN women;
- Development of concrete integration measures should be considered in the fields of information provision and dissemination, policy consultation with immigrant associations, language and professional training for migrant women;
- The Labour Bureaus, being the country's instrument for facilitation of labour market integration, should receive targeted state support and intercultural training to develop their staff's capacity to work with TCN;
- A consultative process should be initiated for development of common state monitoring system for the integration of TCN;
- In the area of education, TCN children should be included in programmes for improvement of Bulgarian language skills after school enrolment, now available only for EU citizens;
- TCN children, as well as Bulgarian children whose mother tongue is not Bulgarian, should receive educational support in school different from those provided to children native speakers;
- Practical training for foreign VoT identification should be conducted for police and service providers, working with sex workers;
- The system for VoT assistance should be developed further by opening in Sofia an interim crisis centre for VoT, including VoT TCN;
- Regular monitoring and assessment should be conducted of the assistance provided to victims of trafficking (Bulgarian nationals and TCN).

ten EU member states. The report describes the profiles of the three groups according to Eurostat and national data and assesses the related policies (based on desk research and in-depth interviews) and outcomes (based on statistical data from national data bases and Eurostat).

A report on EU measures for the integration of vulnerable migrant groups was drafted providing readers with a quick and concise overview of what legislative and policy measures exist on the European level regarding the integration of women, children, and trafficked persons.

A *Compendium of Good Practices* was prepared, identifying promising practices in the spheres of integration and integration monitoring of migrant women,

children, and victims of trafficking. It presents 10 promising practices, compiled from 10 Member States that represent the various historical and current migration patterns in the European Union. In doing so, the compendium contributes to the sharing of knowledge and experiences across the European Union. Experts of the Sociological Program drafted a Policy Brief *Assessing the Integration of Vulnerable Migrant Groups in ten EU Member States* and disseminated it among stakeholders at national and EU level. The Policy Brief summarized the most relevant findings and recommendations of the studies previously conducted in the spheres of integration monitoring and integration of vulnerable migrants. The Policy Brief was presented to EU level stakeholders at a Policy Conference held in Brussels on 28 May 2015.

The results and recommendations of this initiative fed into the publication “**Assessing the Integration of Vulnerable Migrant Groups in Ten EU Member States**”. More information is available at <http://www.assess-migrantintegration.eu/>.

Inclusion Revisited. Practical Solutions for Addressing “Othering” of Roma in Bulgaria

In 2015, the Sociological Program extended its work on informing the policy debates on social inclusion and challenging negative attitudes and “othering” of Roma in Bulgaria. This was achieved through **analysing the effects of public investments in a Roma municipality**. Putting human development gains in the centre of the Roma inclusion debate, the partnership of CSD and a Roma NGO (World without Borders) seeks to build a consensual understanding by majority and minority alike.

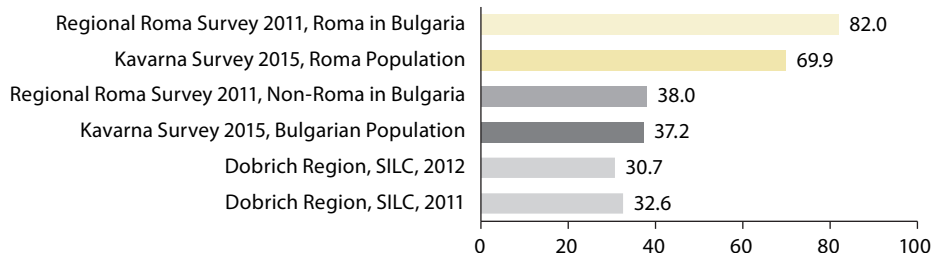
The conducted study provides new data and insight on the **social and economic effects of public investments in Roma communities**. It analyses effects of a wide range of public investments made by Kavarna municipality in the mostly-Roma neighbourhood of Hadji Dimitar between 2004 and 2014. The investment covered areas such as housing and infrastructure, healthcare, employment, income, poverty and social exclusion, justice and crime, and political participation. It reviews a range of indicators with the aim of establishing the effects of these investments on the social and economic development of the neighbourhood and its residents, both Roma and non-Roma. It also looks beyond the neighbourhood to provide a comparative perspective on a national level.

Data collection included a specialised household survey conducted among 300 Roma and non-Roma households

in the Hadji Dimitar quarter of Kavarna in 2015, as well as a series of semi-structured interviews conducted with relevant stakeholders from the municipality. The relevance and impact of these changes is analysed through comparison with the national averages for the whole population and the averages for Roma nationally obtained through data from the National Statistical Institute and a UNDP/ FRA 2011 Regional Survey – *The situation of Roma in 11 EU Member States*.

The analysis revealed that various investments have had different impact on the development of the neighbourhood and reducing the distances with the Bulgarian residents. The most clear and direct effects have been established with regard to **investments in infrastructure and housing improvements**. The construction of a water pipeline and sewerage system had an effect on the improved quality of housing. The pipeline provided access to indoor piped water in the town of Kavarna to 92 % households (in comparison, the share of Roma households nationally is 61 %). In the areas of reduction of poverty and material deprivation, there is also a considerable improvement in the situation in Kavarna, compared to the rest of Bulgaria. In terms of poverty, 39 % of Roma nationally live in households where someone went to bed hungry at least once in the month preceding the survey, due to the lack of money for food, this share among Roma households in the town is less than a quarter – 24 %. Material deprivation in 2015 among the Roma population in the town was double the average for the region (70 %). However, it is still lower than the percentage of Roma across the rest of the country (82 %). In the field of justice and crime, there is a serious reduction in the number of convictions in the municipality of Kavarna between 2004 and 2014 regarding all major types of crime. In the area of political partici-

Share of Population Living in Material Deprivation



Source: NSI: *Social inclusion and living conditions / Poverty and social inclusion indicators by regions*, UNDP Regional Support Centre for Europe and CIS, Istanbul, 2014: *Roma Inclusion Working Papers: Roma Poverty from a Human Development Perspective*. ISBN (printed version): 978-92-95092-89-1 and *Quantitative survey in Hadji Dimitar quarter, Kavarna, 2015*.

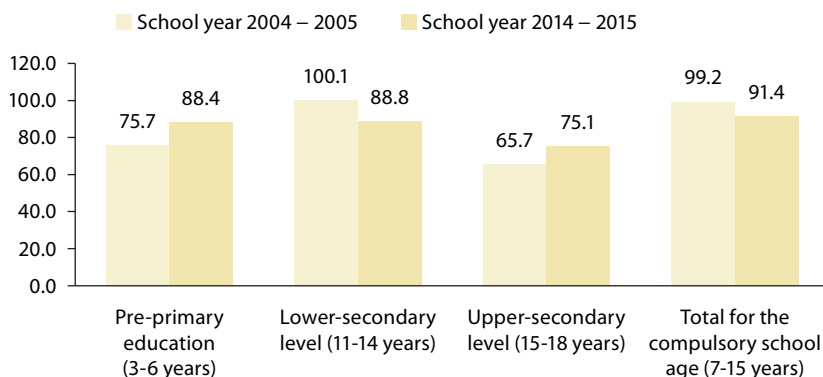
pation it is also extremely important to ensure the Roma have a voice and representation on a municipal level.

The effects in other areas such as **education, healthcare, employment, and income** have been more difficult to gauge and when there have been improvements noted, it is difficult to allocate those to specific investments made. In the area of healthcare, it was established that Kavarna residents, both Roma and non-Roma, had better access to health services. Some of the investments in education have resulted in higher enrolment rates in pre-school and primary school levels, however more measures are needed in the reduction of drop-out rates. In terms of attainment (i.e. the level of completed education) in 2015, 19 % of the Roma were without any formal education, 53 % had completed primary or lower, 26 % with lower-secondary and merely 2.5 % with upper-secondary education. Despite some improvement between 2001 and 2011 when employment among working age (15-64 years) Roma in Kavarna rose from 7 % to 12 %, this is still

lower than the average for the region – 18 % and even lower than the national average of 21 %. The income level for the population of Kavarna in general is also substantially lower than the country average and incomes of the Roma population in their turn are far behind those of the Bulgarian population. Only 24 % of Roma aged 16 and over have labour incomes, compared to 45 % of Bulgarians. Moreover, Roma are far more dependent on unstable and insecure jobs than their Bulgarian neighbours. Migration was seen as one of the most important factors of household income in Kavarna and it contributes to the incomes of 41 % of Roma households.

The results of the study are being presented to a range of stakeholders and include a roundtable for municipality officials and municipal councillors on the role of public investments and training for Roma NGOs on effective advocacy strategies for promoting investments on the local level and a public discussion with relevant national authorities, aiming to inform the policy develop-

Group Net Enrolment Rates by Age Groups and Levels of Education in the Municipality of Kavarna (% of the Populations at the Respective Age)



Source: NSI data provided by request of CSD in August 2015.

ments in the area of Roma inclusion on a national level. There have also been a series of media publications in Bulgarian and international media aiming to inform the wider public of the findings of the study, as well as more broadly, the effects of inclusion on local level.

Study on Supporting Vulnerable Groups before the State

The Sociological program was also involved, together with the Law program, in the elaboration of a study “Supporting Vulnerable Groups before the State: the Role of Civil Society Organisations”. The study aims at providing a comprehensive overview of the role civil society organisations play in enhancing the interaction between institutions and four vulnerable groups: persons deprived of liberty; victims of trafficking; survivors of domestic violence; and persons seeking international protection or other vulnerable foreign nationals. The report is meant to serve as an analytical

foundation to assist the identification of practical steps for raising awareness and increasing the competent authorities’ and NGOs’ institutional capacity. It is further meant as a point of departure for elaborating specific opportunities and models for cooperation.

The Sociological Program was leading in the elaboration of the analysis concerning **victims of trafficking and persons seeking international protection or other vulnerable foreign nationals**. It includes a social and demographic analysis of the two vulnerable groups as well as a legal analysis and their relations with institutions. It outlines the profile of authorities and organisations, which are involved with each vulnerable group, and the problems identified in their interaction. With regard to **victims of trafficking**, special emphasis was put on child victims of trafficking and the development of relevant support mechanisms when the victims leave the reception centres and return to

their community or family. One of the major problems in pre-trial proceedings is that victims of trafficking often withdraw their witness testimonies. Reasons for that are either fear in cases where the victim is threatened by the traffickers, or financial considerations in cases where the victim expects to receive their payment from the traffickers. The need to introduce the status of protected witness with regard to victims of trafficking is discussed. Specialised support at this stage is key in preventing re-trafficking, which often occurs. Access to social services such as accommodation, education, and psychological support is provided by NGOs and often lacking.

Persons seeking international protection or other vulnerable foreign nationals are another vulnerable group, who despite their difference in legal status often share a common challenge with regard to dealing with institutions. Not knowing Bulgarian language appears to be a major problem that foreigners in Bulgaria experience in every aspect of their interaction with public institutions – from the residence permit procedure to access to education or health care. In general, public institutions in Bulgaria provide information only in Bulgarian. An exception to this rule is the State Agency for Refugees, which offers information regarding asylum procedures in different languages. Unaccompanied minors are a particularly vulnerable group. They encounter particular problems in relation to their legal status, education, and psychological support.

NGOs or newly set up volunteer organisations provide a large number of services to the group of persons seeking international protection and third-country

nationals. However, the provision of the majority of these services is part of the public institutions' statutory duties, and the role of civil society organisations is to monitor, not to perform these duties.

The legal regulations assign civil society only a minor role in the formulation of policies aimed at refugees and migrants. In the newly set up National Migration and Integration Council,¹ NGO representatives may be invited to attend particular meetings but they may not sit on the Council. Currently there are no mechanisms for consulting or taking into account the opinion of different migrant groups, their associations or NGOs in the formulation of integration policies.

National Study on Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (DGBV) and Elaboration of Victims Support Model (VSM)

The National Study on Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (DGBV) and Elaboration of Victims Support Model (VSM), aims to research and collect data regarding the prevalence and measures to prevent and combat DGBV. It is implemented by CSD in cooperation with Partners Bulgaria Foundation and the Human Rights Academy, Norway. The study was launched in July 2015 through press-release to the media and a press-conference at Bulgarian Telegraph Agency.

The study aims to contribute to the prevention of DGBV and to improve the situation of DGBV victims in Bulgaria, with specific focus on Roma women and girls. The specific objective is to develop knowledge and expertise regarding the situation of domestic and gender-based

¹ Decree of the Council of Ministers no. 21 of 5 February 2015 for setting up a National Migration and Integration Council, promulgated SG no. 12 of 13 February 2015, Sofia, Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria, 2015.



Launching of National Study on Domestic and Gender-Based Violence, from left to right: Dr Daniela Kolarova, Director of Partners Bulgaria Foundation, Slavyanka Ivanova, Senior Analyst at CSD, Dr Andrey Nonchev, Director of CSD Sociological Program

violence to ensure that all stakeholders including the Bulgarian government can access strong independent analysis in order to facilitate better-informed and evidence-based policy decisions. An additional objective is to develop and pilot a **Victims Support Model (VSM)**, which will involve local community in the assistance and protection of DGBV victims and engage the key local stakeholders (police departments, service providers, local authorities, Roma organizations).

The team of the Center for the Study of Democracy, including members of the Sociological and Law Programs, is responsible for the elaboration of the legal analysis and for the design and implementation of the main focus of a multidimensional study of **Domestic Violence (DV)** and **Gender-Based Violence**

(GBV). The legal, institutional, and policy analysis has been elaborated and presented to the Ministry of Interior. The analysis aims to put the subsequent activities on a sound legal and policy basis so that the data gathering is fully compliant with legislation, concerning DGBV, and most current policies. Tackling a complex phenomenon such as DGBV, the analysis covers a number of legislative and institutional frameworks, concerning: the response of the criminal justice system to those unlawful acts; the specific regulation of protection against domestic violence; the protection and assistance to victims of crimes; and the protection against discrimination. Finally, relevant norms, policies, and practices from Norway, Lichtenstein, and Iceland are enlisted and the avenues for their adaptation and ap-

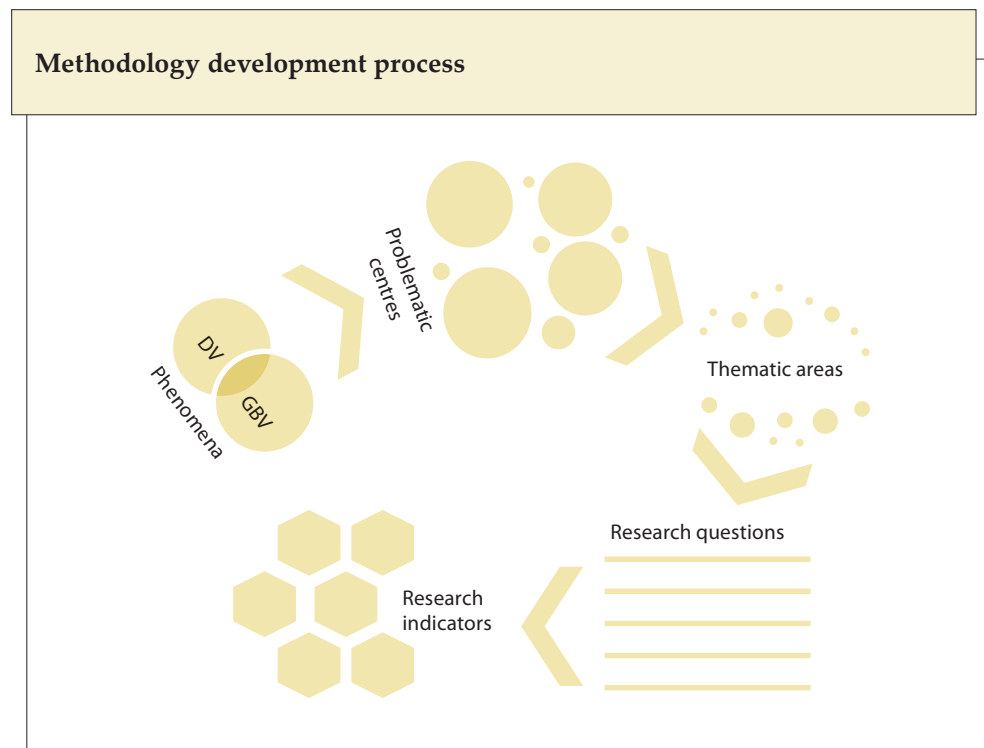
plication into Bulgarian setting are described.

The National study of DGBV envisages a total of eight surveys to be conducted with different methods and among different target groups, in order to gather reliable data about as many aspects of the problem as possible. The subject of the study is the DGBV phenomena in Bulgaria today, from the perspective of victims' protection: scales and incidence of cases of DV and GBV, profiles of victims and most vulnerable groups, unmet needs of victims and supporting authorities and professionals and potential gaps in the national legislation and institutional frameworks.

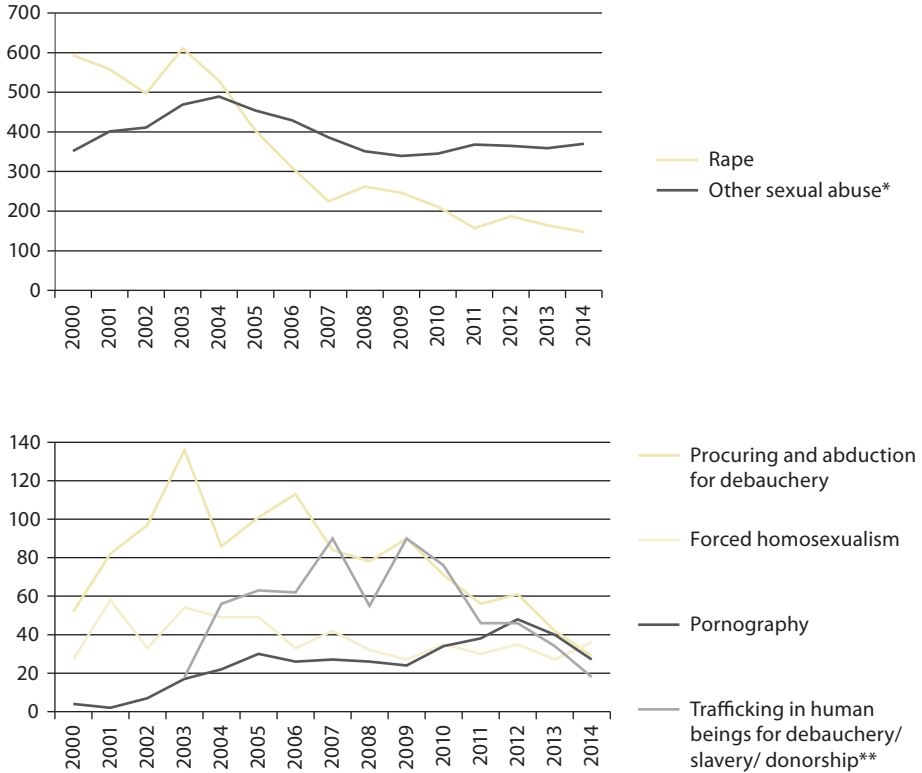
One of the most important results is that the statistical data for gender-related crimes in Bulgaria is in sharp contradiction with the existing survey data for

our country. For instance, the FRA Violence against Women Survey conducted in 2012 revealed that 3 % of Bulgarian women aged 18-74 (corresponding to 80-85 thousand people) became victims of sexual violence in the last 12 months, while the number of all registered sexual crimes in 2011, including against men and children, is less than 700. This means that less than 1 % of sexual crimes in Bulgaria reach the phase of police registration.

Due to this discrepancy between statistical and survey data, and because statistics reflect only a small part of DGBV phenomena, the reliable survey data is crucial for assessing the scales and prevalence of DGBV by different forms and vulnerable groups. Comparisons between statistical data and survey data, where feasible, could serve as an indicator for adequacy of the public and



Number of Recorded Sex-Related Offences by Offence Category in Bulgaria, 2000 – 2014



* Includes Art. 149, 150, 151, 153 and 154 of the Criminal Code

** Includes Art. 159a, 159b and 159c of the Criminal Code. The purpose of trafficking could not be differentiated.

Source: Ministry of Interior/ Planning and Reporting/ Statistics/ Police Statistics http://www.mvr.bg/planirane_otchetnost/statistika/default.htm – Last accessed: 09-10-2015.

institutional response. The importance of the survey data is the reason for more detailed review of existing research

projects on DGBV issues with respect to methods used and results announced to the public.

II. Trafficking in human beings

Countering New Forms of Roma Children Trafficking

The study on countering new forms of children trafficking has a two-fold aim to:

- strengthen counter-trafficking efforts targeting Roma children by providing better understanding of new forms of trafficking through developing and testing new methods of participatory research to gain new insight and understanding of these phenomena;
- empower Roma communities to act as equal partner in counter-trafficking policies and measures.

The study focused on the Roma as it recognises the particular vulnerability of this community across Europe; due to the fact that a majority of the victims come from this community and it is most at-risk of child trafficking. The study is focused on three forms of trafficking: child begging, labour exploitation for pick-pocketing, and sexual exploitation of boys. They are considered new, not because they did not previously exist, but due to a renewed attention. Activities take place in seven EU Member States: four typical countries of origin for victims of trafficking (Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia) and three typical destination countries for Roma victims (Austria, Greece and Italy).

The methodology of the study introduces **participatory research methods**, involving the active participation of the Roma communities. This is achieved through working with partner community organizations and community activists, carrying out a range of activities, such as community mapping, ranking exercises, participation in focus groups,

collecting life stories. These forms of data collection bring about new knowledge of the community and on the three specific forms of trafficking, and help identify gaps and good practices in child victims' assistance and develop effective mechanisms for community involvement in prevention and assistance measures.

The research was summarised in seven national reports detailing the specific aspects of the three forms of trafficking in each country. In addition, a Synthesis report was elaborated on the basis of the main findings on a national level. The studies revealed that there are **no specific culturally ingrained practices that directly make Roma vulnerable to trafficking**. Rather, a complex of inter-dependant socio-economic factors makes the minority group especially vulnerable.

At the core of these complex interdependent factors lies the **deep and multi-dimensional poverty** in which the majority of Roma populations live, and **multiple deprivation in the fields of living standards, housing and (lack of) decent infrastructure** from which they suffer, as well as **education and structural unemployment**. The scales of this poverty are simultaneously a result from several other factors, also inter-dependent.

While **child trafficking for begging** is gaining significant international attention, statistical evidence and policy response to this form of exploitation is declining. Italy and Austria, both typical destination countries, register very few victims of trafficking for the past two recorded years of 2012 and 2013 (8 and 16 victims officially identified by law enforcement bodies in Italy respectively and three victims identified in Austria). Neither of the countries provides data particularly on begging as a form of ex-

Main Factors of Vulnerability of Roma to Child Trafficking by Country

	Austria	Bulgaria	Greece	Hungary	Italy	Romania	Slovakia
Poverty /multiple deprivations							
Unemployment/ lack of life prospective							
Criminalised environment / youth gangs							
Discrimination/ segregation/ closed communities							
Low education/ illiteracy							
Lack of birth/ civil registration/ personal documents							
Family economic activity/ survival strategy							
Usury/ intra-community dependencies							
Mobility, early marriage, child labour, inter-dependency within extended family							
History of previous abuse/ exploitation							
Growing up in state institutions							
Dysfunctional family background							
Disabilities							
Substance abuse							
Absence of child care support							

ploitation. Greece, a destination country of children and families travelling for begging, identified 34 child victims between 2011 and 2013, and four of the victims had been trafficked for begging.

Romanian children trafficked for begging are housed in very poor conditions: rented apartments for 15-20 persons, caravans, deserted houses and parks. According to research based on caseloads of assisted victims, children had to beg on the streets between eight and fourteen hours a day in crowded areas – shop entrances, supermarkets, schools, churches, railway stations, crowded markets, and touristic attractions. Exploiters closely monitored the begging activities and used physical force and threats to ensure compliance.

Similar to other forms of exploitation, the officially registered **child victims of pick-pocketing** in the seven countries studied provide little evidence on the profiles of victims. In Austria, Italy, Greece, Slovakia, and Hungary there are no officially registered victims in the year 2013. The lack of data collection in Greece is a direct result of non-recognition of exploitation for pick-pocketing as a form of trafficking explicitly in law. Greece does not explicitly recognise exploitation for participation in criminal activities as a form of trafficking.

Recruitment mechanisms for child victims of pick-pocketing include substance abuse (drug and alcohol), selling by parents to traffickers, kidnapping, drawn by peers, early marriage and dowry payments, as well as income earning family strategies.

Research in all countries studied show clear indications that specific groups of boys and transgender persons of Roma origin are especially vulnerable to **sex**

trafficking, and some have already been victims of sexual exploitation. The research found that identification efforts need to take place both in the communities of origin, where male and transgender prostitution is usually a visible, yet ostracized phenomenon, and in the countries of destination. Targeted efforts need to be directed towards combatting sexual exploitation in state institutions for child care.

The second objective was to empower Roma communities to act as equal partners in counter trafficking policies and measures. Throughout the research process Roma representatives participated at all stages of data collection, gained new knowledge on child trafficking, and built skills in participating and conducting community-based research. This enables them to more effectively take part in the policy debate, formulation and implementation in the field of counter-trafficking. The high degree of participation of Roma community members in the research and dissemination activity is a testimony to the positive effect that the project had on empowering Roma communities to counteract child trafficking.

An international conference on child trafficking took place in June 2015 in Sofia, hosted by CSD. Further, to the enhanced knowledge and awareness, it also promoted increased cooperation among law enforcement authorities, social service providers, and child protection services. The conference also contributed to the networking both among state authorities, but particularly among civil society organizations as between the Bulgarian, Austrian, and Greek grass-root organisations.

An EU stakeholder meeting was organised in June in Brussels with the aim of bringing the knowledge and findings of the report to relevant stakeholders from



*International Conference Child Trafficking among Vulnerable Roma Communities.
From left to right: Ms Viktyria Sebhelyi, Center for Policy Studies, CEU,
Ms Yva Alexandrova, Senior Analyst, CSD, Ms Kamelia Dimitrova, Secretary General,
National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Ms Timea Stranska,
People in Need*

the European Commission, the European Parliament, and NGOs working on these issues in Brussels. It presented an EU policy brief summarizing the main outcomes of the research relevant on the EU level.

In terms of continuity, it is important to mention that in Bulgaria, a positive impact demonstrating the empowerment of Roma community members to take part in counter-trafficking policy making and implementation, is the invitation of one of the Roma organizations taking part in the research, to take part in the **Permanent Expert Group of the National Commission to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings**. The Permanent Expert group is involved in the drafting of the *Annual Programme to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings and to Protect Victims of Trafficking*.

The community-based approach to combatting trafficking in human beings (including activities such as trainings for Roma NGOs and community based organisations) will be incorporated in the *Action Plan for implementation of the Bulgaria Roma Integration Strategy*, upon the proposal of the National Commission for Combatting Trafficking in Human beings. The community based approach to combatting child trafficking is also being popularised on an EU level by the Center for the Study of Democracy and People in Need amongst members of the EU civil society platform against trafficking in human beings.

CSD will continue to maintain the hosting of the web portal on child trafficking (www.childrentrafficking.eu) as a reference site for topics related to child trafficking in Europe.

The high level of participation in the national and international events serves to testify the positive impact of the work done to sensitise service providers and child protection authorities to new forms of trafficking and improve coordination.

III. Radicalisation leading to terrorism

Countering Radicalisation in Southeast and Central Europe through Development of Monitoring Tools

Together with the Security Program, the Sociological Program is involved in an initiative on countering radicalisation in Southeast and Central Europe. This initiative addresses key needs in the area of counter-radicalisation which include:

- to assess and transfer **de-radicalisation experience** from the Netherlands, UK and other EU MS in order to design, establish and promote radicalisation monitoring tools in Bulgaria, Czech Republic and Greece.
- to aid the informed **monitoring of radicalisation and recruitment** that might potentially lead to acts of extremism and terrorism.
- to aid the **capacity of law-enforcement, local level authorities and civil society**
- to aid the **prevention and tackling of radicalisation** that may lead to violence amongst risk groups in Bulgaria, Czech Republic and Greece.

A review of tools in monitoring radicalisation was conducted. The review provides intelligence and law enforcement officials in the region with a collection of counter-radicalisation tools developed in other EU countries and the USA.

A methodology for background review of radicalisation trends and monitoring

mechanisms at the national level was developed, and guided the conduct of three background studies of radicalisation trends and national monitoring mechanisms in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, and Greece. Three national reports were drafted on radicalisation trends (with regard to right and left wing radicalisation, Islamist radicalisation, and football hooliganism) in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, and Greece. The report for Bulgaria examines the legal, institutional, and policy frameworks and mechanisms for countering and preventing radicalisation that may lead to acts of violence.

A Tool on Monitoring Radicalisation was drafted which will serve to aid intelligence and law enforcement institutions in conducting risk assessments and front line officers monitoring with regard to radicalisation in the three target countries. The Tool is constructed based on monitoring experience accumulated in other EU member states and tested and adapted to the context of Central and Eastern Europe.

Experts from law enforcement and intelligence institutions from Bulgaria and Greece visited a range of institutions dealing with countering and preventing radicalisation in France. Expert briefings were held in seven institutions: Interministerial Committee on Crime Prevention; National Institute for Advanced Studies in Security and Justice; Coordination Unit for the Fight against Terrorism; Central Service of Territorial Intelligence; National Unit for the Fight against Hooliganism; Central Office for Combating Crime linked to Information and Communication Technologies; and Office for Intelligence in Prison.

Two workshops were held in June and December 2015, to present the results from background country studies on trends in radicalisation as well as ap-

proaches in counter-radicalisation and in monitoring radicalisation throughout the EU, as well as to discuss the Radicalisation Monitoring Tool and the design of the national studies.

IV. Rendering Advice and Expertise to Key Governmental Stakeholders

Development of the Annual Report for the EMN

2015 marks the third year the Sociological Program, in cooperation with the Security and the Law Programs, led the drafting of the *Annual Report on Migration and Asylum Policy in Bulgaria* for the European Migration Network. The report provides a comprehensive account of annual policy and legal developments in the fields of legal migration and mobility, citizenship and naturalisation, visa policy and Schengen governance, border monitoring, asylum, trafficking

in human beings, migration and development, integration, irregular migration and return.

Independent Monitoring Mechanism for Return of Rejected Asylum Seekers and Irregular Migrants

A pilot mechanism for monitoring forced return operations was developed by CSD for the Ministry of Interior. It included an analysis of the existing legal and institutional framework in the area of return of irregular migrants and rejected asylum seekers, and more specifically in the area of forced return. A *Handbook for Independent Monitors* was elaborated and tested in two return operations. It includes a review of the existing European and national legal framework, the role and responsibilities of independent observers, a practical guide to monitoring which covers all stages of the return process (pre-operation, pre-return, in-flight, in transit, arrival, de-briefing and a standardised reporting fiche).



Training by CSD for independent observers conducted before their participation in return operations to Pakistan and Algiers

The *Handbook* was tested by independent observers who took part in two operations, one to Pakistan in May and one to Algiers in June. Both operations followed the returnees from the detention centre through to the final arrival to their destinations when they were handed to local receiving authorities. There had been no use or threat of use of violence, and no disrespectful or offensive treatment by the operation team leader and members. The lack of translators hinders the communication with

the returnee and does not allow the observers to gain full understanding of the situation.

As a result of the observations and interviews conducted with relevant stakeholders, a proposal for an independent monitoring consultative mechanism was put forward, which includes the Ombudsman, the Ministry of Interior, Migration Directorate, and relevant civil society organisations.

